

1                                   **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND**

2  
3                                   **2013 Legislative Session**

4                                   Legislative Day #

5  
6                                   **BILL NO. 2013-10**

7  
8                                   **Introduced by: Charles County Commissioners**

9  
10  
11                                   **LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM**

12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17                   **Date introduced:   04   /  23  / 2013**

18  
19                   **Public Hearing:  05  /  22  / 2013 @ 5:30 p.m.**

20  
21                   **Commissioners Action:  05  /  22  / 2013**

22  
23                   **Commissioner Votes: CQK:   Y  , RC:   Y  , KR:   Y  , DD:   Y  , BR:   Y**

24  
25                   **Pass/Fail:   Pass**

26  
27                   **Effective Date:  07  /  06  / 2013**

28  
29  
30                   **Remarks:**

1        **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND**

2  
3  
4                                **2013 Legislative Session**

5  
6        Bill No. 2013-10

7        Chapter No. 54

8        Introduced by Charles County Commissioners

9        Date of Introduction April 23, 2013

10  
11                                **BILL**

12  
13        AN ACT concerning:

14                                **LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM**

15  
16        FOR the purpose of:

17                Temporarily suspending the computation of certain benefits based on the Consumer Price  
18                Index or Cost of Living Index, and providing that the respective benefit shall be a set  
19                amount; and amending the death benefit beneficiary.

20  
21        BY adding:

22                Chapter 54. VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES, RESCUE SQUADS, MOBILE  
23                INTENSIVE CARE UNITS, AND DIVE RESCUE UNITS  
24                SECTIONS 54-9.B-1, C-1, and 54-10.A-1

25        By amending:

26                Section 54-9.H and J  
27                *Code of Charles County, Maryland*  
28                *(1994 Edition, 2007 Supplement).*

29  
30        **SECTION 1.** BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES  
31        COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Charles County, Maryland read as follows:

32  
NOTE: CAPITALS indicate language added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.  
Asterisks \*\*\* mean intervening code language remaining unchanged

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

CHAPTER 54  
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES, RESCUE SQUADS, MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE  
UNITS, AND DIVE RESCUE UNITS  
ARTICLE II  
LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM

**SECTION 54-9. Determination and payment of benefits.**

\* \* \* \* \*

- B. Beginning January 1, 1974, any person who has reached the age of 60 years and who has completed a minimum of 25 years of certified active volunteer service with any Charles County Volunteer Fire Company, Volunteer Rescue Squad, volunteer mobile intensive care unit, or volunteer dive rescue unit, or combination thereof, shall receive benefits in the amount of \$100 per month for life. Payments shall begin on the first day of the first month following eligibility. The program shall be administered by the County Commissioners of Charles County, and payment shall be made directly to the volunteer entitled to such benefits. Beginning July 1, 1984, and annually thereafter, this amount shall be increased or decreased by an amount equal to the annual increase or decrease as reflected by the consumer price index using the published May figure each year. This amount shall not exceed a four-percent increase or decrease per year and shall be cumulative.
- B-1. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2013, THE COMPUTATION IN SUBSECTION B, ABOVE, RELATING TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX OR COST OF LIVING INCREASE IS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED AND THE BENEFIT AMOUNT SHALL BE TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00).
- C. Additional payment, cost of living increase.
- (1) An additional payment of \$2 per month shall be added to the benefits described in Subsection B of this section for each full year of volunteer service in excess of 25 years. Beginning July 1, 1984, and annually thereafter, this amount shall be increased or decreased by an amount equal to the annual increase or decrease as reflected by the consumer price index, using the published May figure each year. This amount shall not exceed a 4% increase or decrease per year and shall be cumulative. Beginning July 1, 1990, the amount payable monthly for each year in

NOTE: CAPITALS indicate language added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.  
Asterisks \*\*\* mean intervening code language remaining unchanged

1 excess of 25 years shall be equal to 4% of the amount payable under subsection B  
2 of this section.

3 (2) In lieu of a cost of living increase for fiscal year 2000, on July 1, 1999, an  
4 increase of \$1 shall be applied to the value of one year's qualifying service.  
5 Subsequent to June 30, 2000, a cost of living increase shall be calculated as  
6 provided in subsection B of this section.

7 C-1. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2013, THE COMPUTATION IN SUBSECTION C, ABOVE,  
8 RELATING TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX OR COST OF LIVING INCREASE  
9 IS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED AND THE BENEFIT AMOUNT SHALL BE TEN  
10 DOLLARS (\$10.00).

11 \* \* \* \* \*

12 H. When a qualified volunteer dies, a death benefit of \$5,000 shall be paid to the volunteer's  
13 [designated beneficiary] SPOUSE OR ESTATE.

14 \* \* \* \* \*

15 J. When an unqualified volunteer is killed in the line of duty during the course of service as  
16 a member of a fire, emergency medical service, or specialized rescue unit or dies having  
17 completed at least one year of length of service award program qualifying service and is  
18 carried on current membership rosters and does not qualify for death benefits as provided  
19 in Subsection H of this section, a death benefit of \$5,000 shall be paid to the unqualified  
20 volunteer's [designated beneficiary] SPOUSE OR ESTATE.

21 \* \* \* \* \*

22

23 **SECTION 54-10. Benefit adjustments upon annual review.**

24 A. Cost of living review; adjustments.

25 (1) Commencing July 1, 1984, and annually thereafter, a cost of living review shall  
26 be made by the County Commissioners to adjust the benefits provided under§ 54-  
27 9B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, and L of this Article. The adjustment shall increase or  
28 decrease the benefits according to an amount equal to the annual increase or  
29 decrease as reflected by the current May consumer price index, but shall not  
30 exceed a four-percent (4%) increase or decrease per year and shall be cumulative.  
31 Revised or reviewed benefits shall commence on October 1of the year.

NOTE: CAPITALS indicate language added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.  
Asterisks \*\*\* mean intervening code language remaining unchanged

1           (2)       Any benefit adjustment made under this section shall be applied only  
2                       prospectively.

3    A-1.   EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2013, THE COMPUTATION IN SUBSECTION A, ABOVE,  
4           RELATING TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX OR COST OF LIVING INCREASE  
5           IS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED AND THE BENEFIT AMOUNT SHALL BE TEN  
6           DOLLARS (\$10.00).

7           \*       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*

8  
9    **SECTION 2.** BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)  
10   calendar days after it becomes law and the provisions of Section 1 of this Act shall be  
11   retroactively effective to July 1, 2013.

12  
13                       Adopted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2013.

14  
15   COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
16   CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

17  
18   \_\_\_\_\_  
19   Candice Quinn Kelly, President

20  
21   \_\_\_\_\_  
22   Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., Vice President

23  
24   \_\_\_\_\_  
25   Ken Robinson

26  
27   \_\_\_\_\_  
28   Debra M. Davis, Esq.

29  
30   \_\_\_\_\_  
31   Bobby Rucci

32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37    ATTEST:

38  
39                       \_\_\_\_\_  
40    Denise Ferguson, Clerk to the Commissioners

NOTE: CAPITALS indicate language added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.  
Asterisks \*\*\* mean intervening code language remaining unchanged